

From: [Carlson, Dave](#)
To: [Reeves, Julie](#)
Cc: [Amy Defreese](#); [Creed Clayton](#)
Subject: Re: Q: TWE status
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 12:39:06 PM

O.K., thanks for your input folks
(Julie -- Amy provided some additional verbal details on the topics below)

TWE is on the WH's priority project list; which means OMB has established an interagency "Rapid Response Team" to keep projects on track and avoid permitting delays.

I think we will want to use our Coop Agency status during the DEIS process to the extent possible to grease the skids. That is, to avoid playing "catch up" or any glitches later during sec 7. So, if BLM is not receptive to our concerns, or if FWS issues are for some reason not receiving the necessary consideration by Lead Agency's or their NEPA contractor--such that the DEIS will not be able to at least identify resources concerns and potential alternative ways of avoiding/mitigating impacts--we will want to understand their reasons. It may be cause to inform our HQ contacts.

On Wed, Mar 6, 2013 at 11:16 AM, Reeves, Julie <julie_reeves@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi, Dave,

In Wyoming, we are maintaining involvement in the greater sage-grouse planning, though share similar concerns as Amy (see below). We cannot foresee any significant section 7 issues, other than Colorado River depletions, which will be handled following existing recovery program stipulations. We are beginning to work with TransWest Express on migratory bird habitat impacts, though that project is not as far along as Gateway West or Energy Gateway South. I sent my feelers out to the others involved in this project and these are their responses.

From Amy Defreese in Utah:

Hi Julie,

These are my initial thoughts:

- 1) TWE and WAPA have hired SWCA to develop the HEA for greater sage-grouse. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for April 3. I have sent two emails to WAPA (Misti Sporer) and Sharon Knowlton about the need to take a step back and make some decisions about the larger greater sage-grouse Framework that encompasses the HEA. I believe Sharon forwarded my emails to Dennis Seville, but I have not yet heard anything back from him. My major rub is that TWE is developing the HEA in a bit of a vacuum, without any context that would otherwise be provided by the larger Framework. The two (HEA and the Framework) go hand in hand and I think it is in everyone's best interest for BLM to take the lead on the Framework and provide a thorough explanation to the cooperating agencies that identifies how, when and where, the Framework will be implemented.
- 2) The indecision on the part of Utah BLM about a migratory bird conservation plan gives me pause.
- 3) Our office has major concerns with clay phacelia where the applicant preferred alternative is aligned through Spanish Fork Canyon in Utah. AECOM tells me the Applicant Preferred Alternative won't be "finalized" for a while, and that we'll discuss clay phacelia then, and/or when the Section 7

consultation starts. If there are impacts to clay phacelia as a result of this project, we could be in a jeopardy situation. Therefore, I think it is in BLM and WAPA's best interest to incorporate consideration of clay phacelia into their decision making when they finalize the applicant preferred alternative, prior to the initiation of Section 7 consultation.

Thanks!

Amy

From Creed Clayton in Grand Junction:

Julie,

The Tuttle Ranch conservation easement issue has not yet been resolved, to my knowledge.

Amy makes a good point below (#1) about the framework and the HEA. I think it is too early to know whether we will be on board with the way the HEA turns out. (I general though, I think that an HEA, if done properly, can be a helpful tool.)

I do not foresee any major s7 issues for Colorado. Migratory bird protection has not yet been fully worked out.

Creed

Dave, please let me know if you have any questions about these concerns.

Thanks!

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Julie (Proell) Reeves
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We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. ~Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carlson, Dave** <dave_e_carlson@fws.gov>

Date: Tue, Mar 5, 2013 at 3:17 PM

Subject: Q: TWE status

To: Julie Reeves <julie_reeves@fws.gov>
Cc: Nathan Darnall <nathan_darnall@fws.gov>

Hi Julie,

I understand BLM plans to issue the DEIS for TransWest Express in late June. I know some tweaks in the "preferred" alternative are still being looked at.

At this time, does FWS know of any major out-standing issues for the project that still need resolution?

Also, I've seen a little email traffic from or to WAPA regarding the HEA model they plan to use for sage grouse habitat.

Do we know yet whether we're on board with the WAPA's plans for model use, or whether we have any concerns?

thank you

--

Dave Carlson
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